

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A powder developer container for use in an image forming apparatus, the powder container comprising:

a storing member for storing ~~powder developer~~ therein;

a mouth member having ~~a developer an~~ outlet from which the ~~developer powder~~ is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, ~~said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position;~~

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion, ~~and wherein said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and~~

~~wherein said mouth member is formed with a passage that is in communication with a developer inlet of said mouth member such that said passage faces the developer stored in said storing member, and said passage is connected with said developing outlet that is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.~~

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~developer~~ powder container as claimed in claim 13, wherein said shutter member has a shaft-like configuration and is movable in the direction of an axis of said ~~developer~~ outlet.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The ~~developer~~ powder container as claimed in claim 13, wherein said shutter member is biased by a biasing member from an inside toward an outside of the ~~developer~~ powder container and movable between a closed position where said ~~developer~~ outlet is blocked and an open position where said ~~developer~~ outlet is unblocked.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier;
a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;
a ~~developer~~ toner replenishing device comprising a ~~developer~~ container from which a ~~developer~~ toner is replenished to said developing device,
said ~~developer~~ container comprising:
a mouth member having a ~~developer~~ an outlet from which the ~~developer~~ toner is discharged; and
a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,

wherein ~~a developer~~ an inlet to said mouth member is formed in the direction of gravity, and said ~~developer~~ outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and

wherein said developer replenishing device is provided with a nozzle which is inserted into or removed from said ~~developer~~ outlet, and said shutter member is moved when said nozzle is inserted into said ~~developer~~ outlet.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein a diameter of said shutter member is the same as that of said nozzle.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier;

a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;

a developer replenishing device comprising a ~~developer~~ container from which a ~~developer~~ toner is replenished to said developing device,

said ~~developer~~ container comprising:

a storing member for storing ~~powder developer~~ toner therein;

a mouth member having a ~~developer~~ an outlet from which the ~~developer~~ toner is discharged; and

a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion, and said ~~developer~~ outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and

wherein said ~~developer~~ container is removably mounted on a mount portion of the image forming apparatus and said mouth member of said ~~developer~~ container is formed at the lower portion of the ~~developer~~ container and said ~~developer~~ outlet is disposed at a side portion of said ~~developer~~ container when said ~~developer~~ container is mounted on the mount portion of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said developer replenishing device is provided with a nozzle which is inserted into or removed from said ~~developer~~ outlet, and said shutter member is moved when said nozzle is inserted into said ~~developer~~ outlet.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein a diameter of said shutter member is the same as that of said nozzle.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a seal member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet, and an inside diameter of said seal member is less than an outside diameter of said shutter member.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A ~~developer~~ powder container for storing powder developer therein for use in an image forming apparatus, the powder container comprising:

a mouth member having ~~a developer an~~ outlet from which the ~~developer powder~~ is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter including a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, and a member attached to said shutter member and configured to move said shutter member between an open position and a closed position, ~~said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position;~~

wherein said shutter, including said shutter member and said member attached to said shutter member, is provided completely outside of said mouth member, and

wherein said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier;

a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;

a developer replenishing device comprising a ~~developer~~ container from which a ~~developer powder~~ is replenished to said developing device,

said developer container comprising:

a mouth member having ~~a developer an~~ outlet from which the ~~developer powder~~ is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a

substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter including a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, and a member attached to said shutter member and configured to move said shutter member between an open position and a closed position, said shutter member being connected to the container in both the open and the closed positions,

wherein said shutter, including said shutter member and said member attached to said shutter member, is provided completely outside of said mouth member; ~~and~~
~~wherein said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.~~

Claims 29-30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A ~~developer powder~~ container for use in an image forming apparatus, the powder container comprising:

a storing member for storing powder ~~developer~~ therein;

a mouth member having ~~a developer an~~ outlet from which the ~~developer powder~~ is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, ~~said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,~~

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion,

wherein said ~~developer~~ outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and
wherein said shutter member is not provided within said storing member.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier;

a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;

a developer replenishing device comprising a ~~developer~~ container from which a ~~developer powder~~ is replenished to said developing device,

said ~~developer~~ container comprising:

a storing member for storing powder ~~developer~~ therein;

a mouth member having a ~~developer an~~ outlet from which the ~~developer powder~~ is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, ~~said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,~~

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion,

wherein said ~~developer~~ outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and

wherein said shutter member is not provided within said storing member.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A ~~developer~~ container for storing powder ~~developer~~ therein comprising:

a storing member for storing powder ~~developer~~ therein;

a mouth member having ~~a developer~~ an outlet from which the ~~developer~~ powder is discharged, the outlet having a cylindrical shape and being configured to receive a substantially horizontal nozzle when the container is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the mouth member further including an inlet which is different from the outlet, and the inlet oriented at a different angle than the outlet; and

a shutter member for closing said ~~developer~~ outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said ~~developer~~ outlet, ~~said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position;~~

~~—wherein a developer inlet to said mouth member is formed in the direction of gravity, and said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and~~

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion.

Claim 34 (New): A container for use in an image forming apparatus, the container comprising:

a storing member for storing powder therein;

a mouth member having an outlet from which the powder is discharged; and
a shutter member for closing said outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said outlet, said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion, and wherein said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and

wherein said mouth member is formed with a passage that is in communication with an inlet of said mouth member such that said passage faces towards said storing member, and said passage is connected with said outlet that is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity,

wherein said shutter member has a shaft-like configuration and is movable in the direction of an axis of said outlet.

Claim 35 (New): A container according to claim 34, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 36 (New): A container according to claim 35, wherein:
the powder includes toner.

Claim 37 (New): A container according to claim 36, wherein:
the powder includes developer.

Claim 38 (New): A powder container for use in an image forming apparatus, the powder container comprising:

a storing member for storing powder therein;

a mouth member having an outlet from which the powder is discharged; and

a shutter member for closing said outlet when said shutter member is fitted to said outlet, said shutter member being connected to the container in both an open and a closed position,

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said mouth member is provided at a tip of said tapered portion, and wherein said outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity, and

wherein said mouth member is formed with a passage that is in communication with an inlet of said mouth member such that said passage faces the storing member, and said passage is connected with said outlet that is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity,

wherein said shutter member is biased by a biasing member from an inside toward an outside of the container and movable between a closed position where said outlet is blocked and an open position where said outlet is unblocked.

Claim 39 (New): A container according to claim 38, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 40 (New): A container according to claim 39, wherein:
the powder includes toner.

Claim 41 (New): A container according to claim 40, wherein:

the powder includes developer.

Claim 42 (New): A container according to claim 13, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 43 (New): A container according to claim 42, wherein:
the powder includes toner.

Claim 44 (New): A container according to claim 43, wherein:
the powder includes developer.

Claim 45 (New): A container according to claim 27, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 46 (New): A container according to claim 45, wherein:
the powder includes toner.

Claim 47 (New): A container according to claim 46, wherein:
the powder includes developer.

Claim 48 (New): A container according to claim 31, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 49 (New): A container according to claim 48, wherein:

the powder includes toner.

Claim 50 (New): A container according to claim 49, wherein:
the powder includes developer.

Claim 51 (New): A container according to claim 33, further comprising:
the powder.

Claim 52 (New): A container according to claim 51, wherein:
the powder includes toner.

Claim 53 (New): A container according to claim 52, wherein:
the powder includes developer.